12th September 1959]

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Till a new place is available to construct the houses for the workers, will the Government at least study the necessity of repairing the existing dilapidated buildings?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : They are not fit for repair at all. They are in a very hopeless condition.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the workers are still living in these dilapidated buildings which are about to fall any day on their heads? Such being the case, what is the difficulty which the Government feel in having them repaired?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir, the buildings are in a very bad condition and we are also very anxious to remove the workers from the dilapidated buildings. We have searched all the places found about and we could not get any place. At last we have pitched upon a place. I think we will be able to construct the quarters soon.

Terminal tax

* 342 *Q.*—SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI : } SRI A. A. RASHEED : } Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Mayor of Corporation of Madras has recently requested the Government to declare Madras as a pilgrim centre for the levy of pilgrim tax; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (*a*) The Corporation addressed the Government as early as in 1956 even before the Terminal Tax on Railway Passengers Act, 1956, was passed by the Parliament.

(*b*) The Government of India have been addressed early in April 1959 to declare Madras City as a "notified place" for the levy of terminal tax under the Terminal Tax on Railway Passengers Act, 1956, so that a terminal tax may be levied during the period from December 16th to February 5th in each year.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is it not a fact that this matter has been pending for the last eighteen months? What is the reason for the delay in receiving a reply from the Central Government?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : We have addressed the Central Government and we are awaiting a reply from them.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : What is the total income expected by this terminal tax?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : A separate question may be put.